

Veterans Affairs Office of Lexington County



TELEPHONE: (803) 785-8400

FAX: (803) 785-0115

EDITOR: *Debbie Myers*

VET NEWS

October 2009

GARY R. BAKER
DIRECTOR

BARBARA O'CONNOR
ASST. CSO

JENNIFER HENDRIX
VETERANS SPECIALIST

605 WEST MAIN STREET
SUITE 101
LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072

OCTOBER OUTREACH PROGRAM DATES

Oct. 6th 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
Oct. 13th 9-12 Chapin

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lexington Main Office: 785-8400
From Batesburg/Leesville: 332-8400
From Chapin: 941-0231

Please note regarding outreach: Appointments are **greatly** appreciated, and walk-ins will be assisted between appointments. Thank you for helping us better assist you!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth."

-George Washington

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Oct. 3rd First Annual ECRC Detachment
Ft. Jackson Navy Birthday Ball -
6 PM
Oct. 10th SC National Guard
Air Ground Expo - 9 AM
McEntire National Guard Base
Oct. 11th SC National Guard
Air Ground Expo - 9 AM
McEntire National Guard Base
Oct. 12th Columbus Day
Oct. 12th Veterans Advisory Committee
Meeting—7 PM
Oct. 16th Boss's Day
Oct. 31st Halloween

* REMINDER *

Set your clocks **BACK** 1
hour on Sunday
November 1st @ 2 AM



VA ALERT REGARDING PHARMACY FRAUD

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reported that the "Patient Care Group" is conducting a scam operation against veterans who receive VA prescriptions. Callers claiming to be representatives of this group tell veterans that their prescriptions are being administered by the company. They then ask for credit card information so that the veterans can continue to receive their medications.

The VA Secretary stated VA has made **no change** to its prescription system, and that veterans should not provide any information to callers from this group. It is **not** VA's practice to call veterans requesting disclosure of personal financial information over the phone.

PRESUMPTION of SERVICE CONNECTION for OSTEOPOROSIS for FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR ESTABLISHED

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a final rule on August 31, 2009 amending its adjudication regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for osteoporosis for former Prisoners of War (POWs) who were detained or interned for at least 30 days and whose osteoporosis is at least 10 percent disabling. Effective **September 28, 2009** the amendment implements a decision by the Secretary to establish such a presumption based on scientific studies.

VA is additionally amending its adjudication regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for osteoporosis for POWs who were detained or interned for any period of time, have a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and whose osteoporosis is at least 10 percent disabling. This amendment reflects statutory provisions of the Veterans' Benefit Improvement Act of 2008.

On January 14, 2009, VA had published a proposed regulation/rule in the Federal Register to amend the 38 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) to establish a presumption of service connection for osteoporosis for POWs who were detained or interned for at least 30 days and whose osteoporosis is at least 10 percent disabling. Interested persons were invited to submit written comments on or before February 13, 2009.

The only change to the proposed regulation made in the final regulation is the addition of the following information:

As noted above, [VA is] including the applicability dates in the amended regulations to avoid confusion. The amendment regarding a presumption of service connection for osteoporosis for POW's with PTSD at 38 CFR 3.309 c (1) is mandated by section 106 of Public Law 110-389 and is therefore to be applied retroactively to all applications for benefits that are received by VA on or after October 10, 2008, the effective date of Public Law 110-389, or that were pending before VA, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on the effective date of this rule. In accordance with 38 USC 5110 (g), the effective date of Public Law 110-389 or the date 1 year prior to the date of application, whichever is later.

This change is reflected as the final rule on this matter and the changes. Further changes implemented by this final rule include the following changes to regulations surrounding Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits:

Subpart A—Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

⇒ 1. The authority citation for part 3, subpart A continues to read as follows: Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501 (a), unless otherwise noted.

⇒ 2. Amend 3.309 © as follows:

A. In paragraph (c)1 in the list of diseases, add "On or after October 10, 2008, Osteoporosis, if the Secretary determines that the veteran has posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," after "Stroke and its complications."

B. In paragraph (c)2 (ii) in the list of diseases, add "On or after September 28, 2009, Osteoporosis." after "Cirrhosis of the liver."

C. Revising the authority citation.

The revision also adds this condition as appropriate under 3.309 Disease subject to presumptive service connection.

SC VETERANS LICENSE PLATES AVAILABLE

Did you know that the SCDMV began issuing new Veteran Specialty Plates for use on private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles on August 1st of this year?

To be eligible you must be a South Carolina resident and have served in the United States Armed Forces, active or reserve components, and have been honorably discharged from service. You will need to present your dd214 with your completed application. This is an additional choice along with the already popular military license plates. In addition, the SCDMV will no longer accept prepaid applications for the Veteran Specialty Plates. www.scdmvonline.com





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
1ST GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23, 2009
FORT JACKSON GOLF CLUB

ENTRY FEE: \$65 PER PLAYER
(INCLUDES GOLF, PRIZES & FOOD)

FORMAT: 4 PERSON CAPTAIN 'S CHOICE

TEE TIME: 12 NOON SHOTGUN

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT: The American Legion Auxiliary Dept of SC
Deadline for entries: **October 14, 2009**

A FLIGHT CONSISTS OF 2 OR MORE WOMEN

B FLIGHT CONSISTS OF 3 MEN OR MORE

TEAM FLIGHT _____

1. _____ PHONE # _____
2. _____ PHONE # _____
3. _____ PHONE # _____
4. _____ PHONE # _____

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT: Bette Mc Morrow 843-281-8513
or The Dept Office at 803-799-6695

Make checks payable to **American Legion Auxiliary Dept of SC** and mail to:

Bette Mc Morrow
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of South Carolina
4089 Lakeshore Drive
Little River, SC 29566

2009 Lexington County Veteran's Parade Application

Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

*** PARADE ROUTE HAS CHANGED PLEASE NOTE ***

ENTRY IS FREE! DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 30, 2009

***** ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE PARKING LOTS OF BUSINESSES THAT ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAY IN THE BUTLER STREET AND MAIN STREET AREA. PLEASE USE CAUTION. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS AND YOU CAN PARK AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT FOR PICK UP. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE UP SPACES AT MCDONALD'S FOR PARKING. THANKS,

PARADE ROUTE: WILL LINE UP ON WEST BUTLER STREET AND HAYGOOD STREET, ENTER MAIN STREET TAKE A LEFT, GO DOWN MAIN STREET, TURN RIGHT ON SOUTH LAKE DRIVE AND THEN LEFT, ENDING AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT.

Name of Entry: _____

Description of Entry: _____
(i.e., truck, car, float, tractor trailer - include the length of your entry)

Number Participating: _____

Additional Comments: _____

Entry Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Mail Applications To:
Lexington County Veteran's
Parade Committee
Attn: Sharon Willis, Chairperson
212 South Lake Drive Ste 302
Lexington SC 29072

For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis 785-1454
Cell # 803-237-9617
Fax # 803-785-8300 or call the
Veterans Affairs Office 803-785-8400

***** Applications can be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at sjswillis57@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP PUT OUT THE PARADE STAKES BEFORE THE PARADE AND TO HELP WITH THE BAND & ROTC GROUPS, MAKING SURE THEY ENTER THE PARADE ROUTE AT THEIR APPROPRIATE PLACES. THANK YOU AGAIN AND ALL THE VETERANS THANK YOU.

YOU ARE INVITED !

CAYCE Memorial POST 130 is hosting a
LEGION AWARENESS BENEFIT
October 16th and 17th
8 A.M. — 4 P.M. Friday
8 A.M. — 3 P.M. Saturday
Location: 402 N Avenue, Cayce

- ⇒ FLEA MARKET
- ⇒ VENDORS
- ⇒ BAKE SALE
- ⇒ CEREMONIAL FLAG-BURNING 10 A.M. (Sat.)
- ⇒ LUNCH ITEMS AVAILABLE 10:30 A.M.- 1:30 P.M. (Fri. and Sat.)
- ⇒ SPAGHETTI DINNER 4:30-7:30 (Sat.)



Proceeds benefit community projects.
Call (803) 553-8532 for more information,

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Ft. Jackson National Cemetery and Florence National Cemetery will participate in the **Wreaths Across America** project this year. Organizers of the local events hope for 100% participation to have a wreath on every grave.

The Ceremony will take simultaneously nationwide on **Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 12:00 noon**, involving all National Cemeteries.

Ceremonies will include the laying of wreaths on monument markers for each of the branches of service, The Army, The Navy, The Marines, The Air Force, The Coast Guard, The Merchant Marines and one for the POW/MIA's. Nationally, the effort placed 105,000 wreaths in over 350 locations, not including the 24 national cemeteries on foreign soil, who also hosted ceremonies. This year, the goal is to surpass that of last year.



Locally, you may contact: Laurie Stokes (Florence): stokeslk@msn.com or Carol Davis (Columbia) tfmnavyvols@yahoo.com in order to volunteer or to donate to the cause. Or, you may participate by visiting the website listed here. The national website is <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>



HAPPENINGS

LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS PARADE November 8th

Join us for the Annual Lexington County Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 8th At 3 P.M. See the application for participation on Page 4 of this newsletter. *Please note that the parade route has changed.

This is an excellent activity for local church or civic organizations! Let's all make this year's event better than ever! The Grand Marshalls of the 2009 Parade will be former POW'S.



Scenes From 2008 Parade

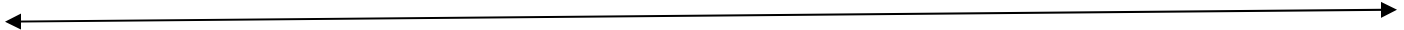


CHECK THIS OUT!

The American Soldier photographic tribute to soldiers from the Civil War to Iraq-



- * **November 11, 2009** through **February 2, 2010**
- * Mon.-Sat. 9-7 and Sun. 9-5
- * Florence Civic Center—3300 W Radio Drive
- * **(843) 679-9417**
- * Open to the Public—**FREE** admission





**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 28, 2009

VA Staffs Office for Survivors of Vets, Service Members
Shinseki: "Voice of Survivors" Will Strengthen Existing Programs

WASHINGTON -- To strengthen the programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the survivors of the nation's Veterans and military personnel, the Department has staffed an office to serve as their advocate, with a charter that includes creating or modifying programs, benefits and services.

"Taking care of survivors is as essential as taking care of our Veterans and military personnel," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. "By taking care of survivors, we are honoring a commitment made to our Veterans and military members."

The office serves as the primary advisor to the secretary on all issues affecting the survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and service members. It will monitor VA's delivery of benefits to survivors, make appropriate referrals to VA offices for survivors seeking benefits and explore innovative ways of reaching survivors who are not receiving the VA benefits for which they are eligible.

VA benefits for eligible survivors include educational assistance, home loan guaranties, health care insurance and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, a monthly payment to the survivors of some people who die on active duty and some seriously disabled Veterans.

More than 554,000 spouses, dependents and other survivors of Veterans are receiving VA benefits. That figure includes nearly 5,000 spouses of World War I Veterans, 90 spouses and 94 children of Spanish-American War Veterans, and two children of Civil War Veterans.

The establishment of this office was authorized in the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008.

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